

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION

NANCY G.,

Plaintiff,

v.

CASE NO.: 08-8977-CA

JEFF WOODRING, FAMILY PRESERVATION
SERVICES OF FLORIDA, INC., DAVID LAWRENCE
MENTAL HEALTH CENTER, INC., LEE MENTAL
HEALTH CENTER, INC., d/b/a RUTH COOPER
CENTER FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE,
and CAMELOT COMMUNITY CARE, INC., d/b/a
CHILDRENS NETWORK OF SOUTHWEST
FLORIDA,

Defendants.

FILED 31
COLLIER COUNTY FLORIDA
2008 NOV 14 PM 1:40
CLERK OF COURTS
BY: M. TOUGAS
Filed in Computer D.C.

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, NANCY G. (the initial "G." has been substituted for NANCY's last name to protect her privacy as she is the victim of sexual abuse), sues the Defendants, JEFF WOODRING, FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES OF FLORIDA, INC., DAVID LAWRENCE MENTAL HEALTH CENTER, INC., LEE MENTAL HEALTH CENTER, INC., d/b/a RUTH COOPER CENTER FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE, and CAMELOT COMMUNITY CARE, INC., d/b/a CHILDRENS NETWORK OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA, and alleges:

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

1. At all times relevant, NANCY G. (hereinafter "NANCY"), was a minor child. She reached the age of majority on January 8, 2007, and is sui juris.
2. At all times relevant, JEFF WOODRING was a natural person licensed by the State of Florida as a foster parent, residing in Collier County, Florida.

3. At all times relevant, FAMILY PRESERVATION SERVICES OF FLORIDA, INC. (hereinafter "FAMILY PRESERVATION"), was a Florida corporation doing business in Collier County, Florida.

4. At all times relevant, DAVID LAWRENCE MENTAL HEALTH CENTER, INC. (hereinafter "DAVID LAWRENCE CENTER"), was a Florida corporation doing business in Collier County, Florida.

5. At all times relevant, LEE MENTAL HEALTH CENTER, INC., d/b/a RUTH COOPER CENTER FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE (hereinafter "RUTH COOPER CENTER"), was a Florida corporation doing business in Collier County, Florida.

6. At all times relevant, CAMELOT COMMUNITY CARE, INC., d/b/a CHILDRENS NETWORK OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA (hereinafter "CHILDRENS NETWORK"), was a Florida corporation doing business in Collier County, Florida.

7. JEFF WOODRING and his then wife, Kathy Woodring, were licensed as foster parents in the State of Florida in the summer of 2000.

8. The Woodrings accepted NANCY as a foster child, along with her siblings, to live in their home in the summer of 2000.

9. Eventually the Woodrings separated and JEFF WOODRING moved to live in a small guest house in December 2003.

10. NANCY then 16 years of age, was placed with JEFF WOODRING alone to live in the guest house.

11. JEFF WOODRING began repeatedly sexually abusing NANCY commencing in late 2003 through January of 2006, when she was removed from his custody.

12. While living with the WOODRINGS, NANCY had developed a substance abuse problem. JEFF WOODRING provided and consumed alcohol and marijuana with NANCY.

13. During the month of January, 2006, the last sexual abuse occurred and was discovered by law enforcement. Until NANCY reached the age of majority on January 8, 2007, she remained a dependent child of the State of Florida, and no one acting on her behalf without interest adverse to her, or with legal authority to act on behalf of NANCY, had knowledge of the facts supporting the causes of action enumerated in this Complaint.

14. Responsibilities for the case management of NANCY, the management of JEFF WOODRING as her foster parent, the employment of JEFF WOODRING, and recommendations of licensure and re-licensure of JEFF WOODRING as a foster parent, shifted between, and was at times shared by, the Defendants, FAMILY PRESERVATION, DAVID LAWRENCE CENTER, RUTH COOPER CENTER, and CHILDRENS NETWORK, during the time NANCY resided with JEFF WOODRING and was being sexually abused.

COUNT I (BATTERY – JEFF WOODRING)

15. This is an action for damages against the Defendant, JEFF WOODRING that exceed \$15,000.00.

16. The General Allegations are incorporated herein by reference.

17. Between the fall of 2003 through January, 2006, JEFF WOODRING accepted and acted as the foster parent of NANCY.

18. During that time, JEFF WOODRING committed multiple batteries upon the person of NANCY by sexually molesting and abusing her, including sexual intercourse.

19. As a result of the sexual molestation of NANCY, she has suffered physical trauma, invasion of her person, has suffered and continues to suffer mental and emotional anguish, insecurity, self-revulsion, damage to her self-esteem and self-worth, shame and humiliation (resulting in attempts at suicide), and medical bills. The losses are permanent and continuing, and she will suffer the losses in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment for damages against Defendant, JEFF WOODRING.

COUNT II
(FAMILY PRESERVATION – VICARIOUS LIABILITY FOR BATTERY)

20. This is an action for damages against FAMILY PRESERVATION that exceed \$15,000.00.

21. The General Allegations are incorporated herein by reference.

22. Between the fall of 2003 through January, 2006, JEFF WOODRING accepted and acted as the foster parent of NANCY.

23. During a part of said time period, FAMILY PRESERVATION employed JEFF WOODRING to provide foster care to NANCY.

24. During that time, JEFF WOODRING sexually molested, abused and battered NANCY, including sexual intercourse.

25. JEFF WOODRING was assisted in his commission of batteries on NANCY's person by virtue of the employer/employee relationship that existed between himself and FAMILY PRESERVATION.

26. As a result of the sexual molestation of NANCY, she has suffered physical trauma, invasion of her person, has suffered and continues to suffer mental and emotional anguish, insecurity, self-revulsion, damage to her self-esteem and self-worth, shame and

humiliation (resulting in attempts at suicide), and medical bills. The losses are permanent and continuing, and she will suffer the losses in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment for damages against Defendant, FAMILY PRESERVATION.

COUNT III
(RUTH COOPER CENTER – VICARIOUS LIABILITY FOR BATTERY)

27. This is an action for damages against RUTH COOPER CENTER that exceed \$15,000.00.

28. The General Allegations are incorporated herein by reference.

29. Between the fall of 2003 through January, 2006, JEFF WOODRING accepted and acted as the foster parent of NANCY.

30. During part of said time period, RUTH COOPER CENTER employed JEFF WOODRING to provide foster care to NANCY.

31. During that time, JEFF WOODRING sexually molested, abused and battered NANCY, including sexual intercourse.

32. JEFF WOODRING was assisted in his commission of batteries on NANCY's person by virtue of the employer/employee relationship that existed between himself and RUTH COOPER CENTER.

33. As a result of the sexual molestation of NANCY, she has suffered physical trauma, invasion of her person, has suffered and continues to suffer mental and emotional anguish, insecurity, self-revulsion, damage to her self-esteem and self-worth, shame and humiliation (resulting in attempts at suicide), and medical bills. The losses are permanent and continuing, and she will suffer the losses in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment for damages against Defendant, RUTH COOPER CENTER.

COUNT IV
(DAVID LAWRENCE CENTER – VICARIOUS LIABILITY FOR BATTERY)

34. This is an action for damages against DAVID LAWRENCE CENTER that exceed \$15,000.00.

35. The General Allegations are incorporated herein by reference.

36. Between the fall of 2003 through January, 2006, JEFF WOODRING accepted and acted as the foster parent of NANCY.

37. During part of said time period, DAVID LAWRENCE CENTER employed JEFF WOODRING to provide foster care to MARIA.

38. During that time, JEFF WOODRING sexually molested, abused and battered NANCY, including sexual intercourse.

39. JEFF WOODRING was assisted in his commission of batteries on NANCY's person by virtue of the employer/employee relationship that existed between himself and DAVID LAWRENCE CENTER.

40. As a result of the sexual molestation of NANCY, she has suffered physical trauma, invasion of her person, has suffered and continues to suffer mental and emotional anguish, insecurity, self-revulsion, damage to her self-esteem and self-worth, shame and humiliation (resulting in attempts at suicide), and medical bills. The losses are permanent and continuing, and she will suffer the losses in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment for damages against Defendant, DAVID LAWRENCE CENTER.

COUNT V
(CHILDRENS NETWORK – VICARIOUS LIABILITY FOR BATTERY)

41. This is an action for damages against CHILDRENS NETWORK that exceed \$15,000.00.

42. The General Allegations are incorporated herein by reference.

43. Between the fall of 2003 through January, 2006, JEFF WOODRING accepted and acted as the foster parent of NANCY.

44. During a part of said time period, CHILDRENS NETWORK employed JEFF WOODRING to provide foster care to NANCY.

45. During that time, JEFF WOODRING sexually molested, abused and battered NANCY, including sexual intercourse.

46. JEFF WOODRING was assisted in his commission of batteries on NANCY's person by virtue of the employer/employee relationship that existed between himself and CHILDRENS NETWORK.

47. As a result of the sexual molestation of NANCY, she has suffered physical trauma, invasion of her person, has suffered and continues to suffer mental and emotional anguish, insecurity, self-revulsion, damage to her self-esteem and self-worth, shame and humiliation (resulting in attempts at suicide), and medical bills. The losses are permanent and continuing, and she will suffer the losses in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment for damages against Defendant, CHILDRENS NETWORK.

COUNT VI
(FAMILY PRESERVATION - NEGLIGENCE)

48. This is an action for damages against FAMILY PRESERVATION that exceed \$15,000.00.

49. The General Allegations are incorporated herein by reference.

50. FAMILY PRESERVATION, at all times relevant, had a contractual relationship with the lead community based provider and State of Florida whereby it accepted and agreed to provide child protective services, including the delivery of foster

care, management, and related services. (Plaintiff does not have a copy of the contract, but Defendant should be in possession of the same.)

51. Defendant, FAMILY PRESERVATION particularly undertook the responsibility for a) providing for placement and case management for NANCY in the WOODRING home, b) for management of JEFF WOODRING as a foster parent, and c) to obtain the foster parent licensure and re-licensure for JEFF WOODRING from the State of Florida, for a part of the time NANCY lived in the WOODRING home and was being sexually abused by JEFF WOODRING.

52. Between the fall of 2003 through January, 2006, JEFF WOODRING accepted and acted as the foster parent of NANCY.

53. During that time, JEFF WOODRING sexually abused and molested NANCY, including sexual intercourse.

54. Defendant, FAMILY PRESERVATION, at all times relevant, had a duty, pursuant to its contract, as alleged above, to monitor, supervise, and ensure the safety of NANCY while she was placed in the WOODRING home as a foster child.

55. FAMILY PRESERVATION knew or should have known of the abuse.

56. Defendant negligently:

a. recommended licensure and re-licensure to DCF of JEFF WOODRING as a foster parent, when it knew or should have known that he was disqualified to act as a foster parent to NANCY at his residence;

b. left NANCY in the care of JEFF WOODRING;

c. managed NANCY as a foster child in the home of JEFF WOODRING; and

d. managed JEFF WOODRING as the foster parent of NANCY.

57. As a result of the sexual molestation of NANCY, she has suffered physical trauma, invasion of her person, has suffered and continues to suffer mental and emotional anguish, insecurity, self-revulsion, damage to her self-esteem and self-worth, shame and humiliation (resulting in attempts at suicide), and medical bills. The losses are permanent and continuing, and she will suffer the losses in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment for damages against Defendant, FAMILY PRESERVATION.

COUNT VII
(RUTH COOPER CENTER - NEGLIGENCE)

58. This is an action for damages against RUTH COOPER CENTER that exceed \$15,000.00.

59. The General Allegations are incorporated herein by reference.

60. RUTH COOPER CENTER, at all times relevant, had a contractual relationship with the lead community based provider and the State of Florida whereby it accepted and agreed to provide child protective services, including the delivery of foster care, management, and related services. (Plaintiff does not have a copy of the contract, but Defendant should be in possession of the same.)

61. Defendant, RUTH COOPER CENTER particularly undertook the responsibility for a) providing for placement and case management for NANCY in the WOODRING home, b) for management of JEFF WOODRING as a foster parent, and c) to obtain the foster parent licensure and re-licensure for JEFF WOODRING from the State of Florida, for a part of the time NANCY lived in the WOODRING home and was being sexually abused by JEFF WOODRING.

62. Between the fall of 2003 through January, 2006, JEFF WOODRING accepted and acted as the foster parent of NANCY.

63. During that time, JEFF WOODRING sexually abused and molested NANCY, including sexual intercourse.

64. Defendant, RUTH COOPER CENTER, at all times relevant, had a duty, pursuant to its contract, as alleged above, to monitor, supervise, and ensure the safety of NANCY while she was placed in the WOODRING home as a foster child.

65. RUTH COOPER CENTER knew or should have known of the abuse.

66. Defendant negligently:

a. recommended licensure and re-licensure to DCF of JEFF WOODRING as a foster parent, when it knew or should have known that he was disqualified to act as a foster parent to NANCY at his residence;

b. left NANCY in the care of JEFF WOODRING;

c. managed NANCY as a foster child in the home of JEFF WOODRING; and

d. managed JEFF WOODRING as the foster parent of NANCY.

67. As a result of the sexual molestation of NANCY, she has suffered physical trauma, invasion of her person, has suffered and continues to suffer mental and emotional anguish, insecurity, self-revulsion, damage to her self-esteem and self-worth, shame and humiliation (resulting in attempts at suicide), and medical bills. The losses are permanent and continuing, and she will suffer the losses in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment for damages against Defendant, RUTH COOPER CENTER.

COUNT VIII
(DAVID LAWRENCE CENTER - NEGLIGENCE)

68. This is an action for damages against DAVID LAWRENCE CENTER that exceed \$15,000.00.

69. The General Allegations are incorporated herein by reference.

70. DAVID LAWRENCE CENTER at all times relevant, had a contractual relationship with the lead community based provider and the State of Florida whereby it accepted and agreed to provide child protective services, including the delivery of foster care, management, and related services. (Plaintiff does not have a copy of the contract, but Defendant should be in possession of the same.)

71. Defendant, DAVID LAWRENCE CENTER particularly undertook the responsibility for a) providing for placement and case management for NANCY in the WOODRING home, b) for management of JEFF WOODRING as a foster parent, and c) to obtain the foster parent licensure and re-licensure for JEFF WOODRING from the State of Florida, for a part of the time NANCY lived in the WOODRING home and was being sexually abused by JEFF WOODRING.

72. Between the fall of 2003 through January, 2006, JEFF WOODRING accepted and acted as the foster parent of NANCY.

73. During that time, JEFF WOODRING sexually abused and molested NANCY, including sexual intercourse.

74. Defendant, FAMILY PRESERVATION, at all times relevant, had a duty, pursuant to its contract, as alleged above, to monitor, supervise, and ensure the safety of NANCY while she was placed in the WOODRING home as a foster child.

75. DAVID LAWRENCE CENTER knew or should have known of the abuse.

76. Defendant negligently:

a. recommended licensure and re-licensure to DCF of JEFF WOODRING as a foster parent, when it knew or should have known that he was disqualified to act as a foster parent to NANCY at his residence;

- b. left NANCY in the care of JEFF WOODRING;
- c. managed NANCY as a foster child in the home of JEFF WOODRING; and
- d. managed JEFF WOODRING as the foster parent of NANCY.

77. As a result of the sexual molestation of NANCY, she has suffered physical trauma, invasion of her person, has suffered and continues to suffer mental and emotional anguish, insecurity, self-revulsion, damage to her self-esteem and self-worth, shame and humiliation (resulting in attempts at suicide), and medical bills. The losses are permanent and continuing, and she will suffer the losses in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment for damages against Defendant, DAVID LAWRENCE CENTER.

COUNT IX
(CHILDRENS NETWORK – NEGLIGENCE)

78. This is an action for damages against CHILDRENS NETWORK that exceed \$15,000.00.

79. The General Allegations are incorporated herein by reference.

80. CHILDRENS NETWORK, at all times relevant, had a contractual relationship with the lead community based provider and the State of Florida whereby it accepted and agreed to provide child protective services, including the delivery of foster care, management, and related services. (Plaintiff does not have a copy of the contract, but Defendant should be in possession of the same.)

81. Defendant, CHILDRENS NETWORK particularly undertook the responsibility for a) providing for placement and case management for NANCY in the WOODRING home, b) for management of JEFF WOODRING as a foster parent, and c) to obtain the foster parent licensure and re-licensure for JEFF WOODRING from the

State of Florida, for a part of the time NANCY lived in the WOODRING home and was being sexually abused by JEFF WOODRING.

82. Between the fall of 2003 through January, 2006, JEFF WOODRING accepted and acted as the foster parent of NANCY.

83. During that time, JEFF WOODRING sexually abused and molested NANCY, including sexual intercourse.

84. Defendant, CHILDRENS NETWORK, at all times relevant, had a duty, pursuant to its contract, as alleged above, to monitor, supervise, and ensure the safety of NANCY while she was placed in the WOODRING home as a foster child.

85. CHILDRENS NETWORK knew or should have known of the abuse.

86. Defendant negligently:

a. recommended licensure and re-licensure to DCF of JEFF WOODRING as a foster parent, when it knew or should have known that he was disqualified to act as a foster parent to NANCY at his residence;

b. left NANCY in the care of JEFF WOODRING;

c. managed NANCY as a foster child in the home of JEFF WOODRING; and

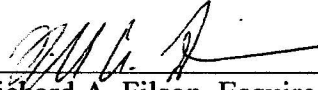
d. managed JEFF WOODRING as the foster parent of NANCY.

87. As a result of the sexual molestation of NANCY, she has suffered physical trauma, invasion of her person, has suffered and continues to suffer mental and emotional anguish, insecurity, self-revulsion, damage to her self-esteem and self-worth, shame and humiliation (resulting in attempts at suicide), and medical bills. The losses are permanent and continuing, and she will suffer the losses in the future.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment for damages against Defendant, CHILDRENS NETWORK.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff demands a jury trial on all issues triable by jury.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Filson', is written over a horizontal line.

Richard A. Filson, Esquire
FILSON & PENGE, P.A.
2727 South Tamiami Trail, Suite 2
Sarasota, Florida 34239
Florida Bar No.: 435074
(941) 952-0771
Attorney for Plaintiff